



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

SIMPLE ACCESS TO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS

The Australian Government's approach to regional development is to work in partnership with communities, government and the private sector to foster the development of self-reliant communities and regions. This approach is consistent with the Government's framework for developing Australia's regions: *Stronger Regions, A Stronger Australia*. Regional Partnerships is a programme that delivers on the Australian Government's approach to regional development.

A total of \$308m is available through Regional Partnerships over the four years from 2004/05 to 2007/08.

What type of projects will be considered for funding?

The programme focuses on four areas:

- **strengthening growth and opportunities** by investing in projects that strengthen and provide greater opportunities for economic and social participation in the community;
- **improving access to services** by investing in projects that, in a cost effective and sustainable way, support communities to access services. It will give priority to communities in regional Australia with a population of less than 5,000;
- **supporting planning** by investing in projects that assist communities to identify and explore opportunities and to develop strategies for action; and
- **assisting structural adjustment** by investing in projects that assist specifically identified communities and regions adjust to major economic, social or environmental change.

Who can apply?

Entities registered under State or Commonwealth legislation eg *Corporations Act 2001* (with some exceptions as listed in the guidelines), can apply for **Regional Partnerships funding**. This includes:

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| – Non-profit organisations | – Co-operatives |
| – Local Government | – Associations |
| – Community Councils (Indigenous Councils) | – Registered Charities |
| | – Private sector |



Copies of the guidelines are available at www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au or from your local Area Consultative Committee, contact details for which are listed below.

On-the-ground support

Under **Regional Partnerships**, communities have access to on-the-ground support to develop projects and funding applications, through the Australian Government's national network of 56 Area Consultative Committees (ACCs).

ACCs are groups of volunteers drawn from the community, local business and local government to foster a coordinated approach to regional development. They provide a strong link between local communities and the Australian Government.

ACCs will help ensure that proposed projects are consistent with key regional priorities. They can also help ensure your funding application is sufficiently detailed and meets **Regional Partnerships** criteria, identify possible project partners, and advise on how to provide evidence of community or business support for specific projects. ACCs are the key providers of independent advice to the Australian Government on all applications under **Regional Partnerships**, from your region.

You will find the locations and contact details of ACCs at www.acc.gov.au or phone the Commonwealth Regional Information Service (CRIS) on 1800 026 222 or go to the website at www.regionalaustralia.gov.au to find out about your nearest ACC.

How to apply

Your local ACC is the best place to start if you wish to access funding through Regional Partnerships.

All **Regional Partnerships** applications should be lodged with the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS). Electronic lodgement is preferred and can speed up the application process. However hardcopy applications will be accepted.

Given its key role in community development, it is important that you also seek support for your application, where appropriate, from your Local Government. Local government details can be found at www.alga.asn.au/links/associations.php or through the CRIS hotline on 1800 026 222.

Key contacts

Regional Partnerships	www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au
Your local Area Consultative Committee (ACC)	www.acc.gov.au
The Commonwealth Regional Information Service (CRIS)	1800 026 222 or www.regionalaustralia.gov.au
Local Government	www.alga.asn.au/links/associations.php